

# The Grapevine



Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

July 2008 Volume 12, Issue 7

## July Meeting Includes Tour of Joan Martin's Garden

Gardening is a neighborly affair for Advanced Master Gardener Joan Martin.

Fellow members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association will see what she has sown when they visit her garden this month – and those of two of her neighbors.

"I love gardening," says the Maine native, who has recreated a bit of her home state with her white clapboard Cape Cod house, moon gate and the white picket fence that surrounds her Saginaw Township yard.



Joan Martin with traditional "Moon Gate"

"My mother was a gardener, my grandmother was a gardener and I went with the flowers they had. I hate the name 'Master Gardener.' I don't know any more than anyone else, but I love gardening.

"This yard was free of anything, so I did my own thing when we moved here in 2001. We put the fence in about three years ago and that's why I have perimeter gardens."

Although she and husband Bill, an attorney, have tried to put in a circle garden, it's never turned out quite the way she would like. A semi-circle filled with roses stands as testament to their attempt.

But while circles may not be in Martin's immediate future, her gardening expertise shows in the huge, lush perennials that line her yard. Waist-high daisies and cone-flowers are filled with blooms.

And while the lupines are finishing up, her Caseville brown-eyed Susans are preparing to show off, along with the clematis on her front moon gate and climbing roses on the seated trellis in the back yard.

"I love primroses – they're the first thing out in the spring and some of them smell so nice. I also love boxwoods, as you can see from the front yard, and nasturtiums, like my grandmother always had," Martin says.

She also wouldn't be without her bitter-sweet shrub.

"That's what life is all about – you watch and watch and then when it finally blooms in the fall it's so beautiful.

"I just wonder if I'm going to have anything in bloom come meeting time. Everything seems to be blooming really early this year."

Her yard also features hostas, daylilies, yellow Siberian irises and glads in memory of her mom. The family has brought rocks from New England, Nova Scotia and Higgins Lake to line the flower beds.

"I took the Master Gardener class with about eight or nine friends – I had never heard of it before – but only two of us con-

### Next meeting

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23,

at the garden of Joan Martin

4425 Dirker, in Saginaw Township

7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Business meeting

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Refreshments and view Martin's garden, along with those of two of her neighbors, Mark and Koula Legner, 4415 Dirker, and Carol and Ken Boertman, 4454 Forsythe.

**Bring a chair; please wear your badge. NO GUESTS**

**Directions:** Dirker is located off Hemmeter in Saginaw Township, between Brockway and Gratiot. Parking in Martin's driveway and on street.

## Michigan Flowers for Hummingbirds

Several years ago, a woman from north of Ann Arbor noticed something different about one of the Hummingbirds at her myriad of feeders. The flight pattern, speed and a white marking above the ear indicated it was not the Ruby throated Hummingbird with which she was familiar.

In the 30 or so years of gardening and bird feeding for "hummers", she had only seen the Ruby throated specie. Her operation was so successful, bird banders in Southern Michigan used it for their studies. For many years she had lived in Georgia and the Hummingbirds came to her feeder in the spring and in the fall. In Michigan, she has the birds from May to October.

Hummingbirds are the smallest of all the birds.. They are strictly a New World bird. Of the 17 species known to nest in North America, only the Ruby throated

### Inside this issue:

Minutes of June meeting	2
President's Letter	3
Fall MG Class	3
Education opportunities	4, 5, 7
Volunteer Opportunities	6
2008 schedule of events	8

View the newsletter at:  
[web1.msue.msu.edu/  
mastergardener/saginaw/](http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/)

See July Meeting, page 6

See Hummingbirds, page 2

## Minutes of June 25, 2008 meeting

Karen Tilden welcomed 33 members to Janet Wazny's home in Saginaw Township. She thanked Mary for her hospitality, as well as Linda Steinert and Karen Beogher. This month's meeting offered a tour of three beautiful gardens in the Merrill area.

Elaine Rappley moved that the minutes of the May 2008 meeting be approved as published; Judy Henning seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Crystal Kauer read the treasurer's report. As of this date we have 166 members, which includes 7 couples. Elaine Rappley moved that the treasurer's report be approved; Katharyn Berger seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Karen reminded grant approved project leaders to take before and after pictures of their projects for submission to the Board.

Mary Andrews discussed the tours on schedule for the August meeting; they include the Japanese Cultural Gardens and the various gardens at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Andrews indicated there will

be a sign-up sheet routed through e-mail for members to designate the food item they will bring to the potluck. Dinner will be served at the zoo; members should park at the zoo and walk over to the Japanese Gardens. Each member is allowed to bring one adult guest to the meeting.

Andrews also indicated there was information available for those interested in the attending the Riverside Saginaw Film Festival.

Grey Gitzen discussed the new approach Habitat for Humanity (HFH) has in place to help neighborhoods where they are working at refurbishing and reclaiming older homes. This year HFH is not doing many builds, but instead are taking older

existing homes that have been donated and are remodeling these houses. HFH has asked volunteer Master Gardeners to assist in designing and advising the new homeowners on their new flowerbeds. There would be no physical labor involved, just giving advice. This is a request that has been approved as a one year project by the Master Gardener Coordinator. There are approximately 30 homes being refurbished.

Patty Decker indicated she had a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work for the upcoming Bird, Bugs, Butterflies and Blooms at the Saginaw Children's Zoo.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Melva Bond, secretary*

### Hummingbirds, continued from page 1

is seen here in Michigan. They winter in the area between Mexico and Panama in all habitats supporting flowering plants. The birds hover at flowers to sip nectar with tongues up through their long thin bill.

The color red is known as a Hummingbird attractant, so feeders are always red and with their sugar water are the foundation for an attractant and feeding program.

The lady has been very generous with information on plants that her hummingbirds like..

Here's a list of plants she has used and firmly believes are attracting to hummingbirds. Most are annuals. The starred plants are those she would not be without.

- Ivia guaranitica - Salvia miniata
- Salvia coccinea - Spanish Dancer \*
- Cuphea - David Verity
- Cuphea micropetals
- Cuphea cyanea
- Abutilon pictum
- Lobelia cardinalis \*
- Jewelweed \*
- Pentas lanceolata

These plants grow well in her yard and also attract Butterflies. She also believes that having a moving water feature is an integral part of attracting other birds such as migrants and warblers. She grows other flowers as well.

Her old-fashioned Coral Honeysuckle blooms beginning in May and then off and on until fall. Other plants that are known favorites are Hibiscus syriacus ( Rose of Sharon) , Digitalis purpurea ( Common Foxglove), Buddleia davidii ( Butterfly Bush). To locate plants on her list, first check local plant and nursery businesses. Then try the internet.

..... That odd hummingbird she noticed was a White eared Hummingbird.

It was the first recorded in Michigan and the second East of the Mississippi.....

..... and yes, there are enough Hummingbirds around so you can have some.

Submitted by Jed Fulkerson  
SVMGA Volunteer



#### Next Board Meeting:

**5:30 p.m. Wednesday,  
August 6th at MSU Extension**

#### Newsletter Deadline:

**NOTE!!**

**IT'S VACATION TIME!!**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2008  
5:00 PM**

Send submissions to  
**Sue Stemler, editor**  
**suestemler@chartermi.net**

View the newsletter at:  
**web1.msue.msu.edu/  
mastergardener/saginaw/**

View the SVMGA web page at:  
**web1.msue.msu.edu/  
mastergardener/saginaw/  
association/**

## Letter from the president

I was walking in my gardens the other day and a wonderful surprise greeted me. A few years back, I picked up some cactus from one of the garden exchanges. I was just curious to see if they would make it through our winters. I planted them and they survived and increased somewhat but never seemed to flourish until this year. Suddenly I saw blooms on them!

They have this beautiful yellow flower with a golden center. I had never even considered the possibility that they would bloom and suddenly I had flowers where I never expected to see them. Mother Nature is a wonderful thing – you never know when she will bring you surprises. Looking at my little cactus plants, I can just imagine what the desert looks like when it is in bloom!

Everywhere I look, I see beautiful gardens. The spring showers of May waited

until June to show up and gardens are just extra beautiful this year. Having missed the last meeting, I also missed seeing the three lovely gardens that were on display. I heard raves about them from people who were there. Sincere thanks go to Master Gardeners Janice Wazny and Karen



Boeher and their friend Linda Steinert. I am looking forward to seeing Joan Martin's gardens this month. I love that our members invite us to their homes in the summer to gain inspiration for our own gardens.

Just a reminder for those of you with bird feeders. Mothers and their babies are out and about and they are so much fun to watch!

For those of you who utilize the Rail Trail to St. Charles, whether or not you walk, run, bike or rollerblade, there are beds that can use weeding. New beds were put in

this year and even five minutes of weeding can make a difference.

The eye park in particular could use some help. (See Volunteer Opportunities, page 6.) Please consider this when you go by the areas. Signs tell that MG's are taking care of the area and the condition of these beds is a reflection on all of us.

I have stopped in the past for a few minutes or so when I am biking. I would ask that those of you who signed up to work maintenance of the beds, as well as any other Mg's passing by these gardens, take a moment to stop and pull a few weeds.

Have a great July!

Toodles

Susan

## Fall Master Gardener Class Announced

A new Master Gardener class begins Wednesday, Aug. 20, and continues weekly through Nov. 12 at the MSU Extension office, 1 Tuscola, located behind the Temple Theater in downtown Saginaw.

Sessions cover plant science, soils, vegetable culture, small fruits, household insects, woody ornamentals, flower gardening, tree fruit culture, lawn care, indoor plants, diagnostics, water quality, beekeeping and more.

Sessions are from 5:30 p.m to 9:30 p.m. and designed to give participants basic horticulture principles and environmentally sound gardening practices.

The program also is aimed at helping to educate the community through a variety of horticulture-related activities.

Cost is \$255 and space is limited. Scholarships are available to those demonstrating need to defray the cost.

Participants attend classes and are tested on the materials.

To become a certified Master Gardener, which makes you eligible to join the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association, you must complete 40 volunteer hours on MSU Extension projects.

To reserve a place for the fall, or winter class afternoon class, which begins Jan. 27, send your name, address, phone and e-mail address with a \$20 deposit and class preference, to Saginaw County MSU Extension, Attn: Master Gardener Program, 1 Tuscola, Saginaw, MI 48607.

### Officers for 2007-08

<i>President</i>	Susan Scott	791-9270
<i>Vice President</i>	Karen Tilden	777-6673
<i>Secretary</i>	Melva Bond	777-4092
<i>Treasurer</i>	Crystal Kauer	792-6874
<i>Program Director</i>	Mary Andrews	797-3319
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Sue Stemler	781-4656
<a href="mailto:suestemler@chartermi.net">suestemler@chartermi.net</a>		
MSU Extension	1 Tuscola Street Saginaw, MI 48607-1287	
<i>Master Gardener Coordinator</i>		
Nancy L. Burd,	758-2504	
<a href="mailto:burd@msu.edu">burd@msu.edu</a>		

### Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association mission statement

“Joining together as Master Gardeners, our mission is to promote our enthusiasm and knowledge of gardening by a wide variety of educational and volunteer activities in a spirit of fun and friendship.”

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity institution.

## MSU Presents Garden and Workshop Events. . . . .

### Celebrate the Gardens' 15th year!

Thursday, August 7th      Time Info  
Coming

*This special event is planned in appreciation of the donors to, and friends of, the MSU Horticulture Gardens. We invite everyone who appreciates the beauty and wonder of gardens to join us.*

You are invited to enjoy the beauty of this year's gardens for an evening in the Horticulture Gardens of Michigan State University. Make new friends and renew old acquaintances or simply enjoy the gardens. \$30 per person

### Garden Day- Workshop August 8, 2008

**Wharton Center & Plant & Soil  
Sciences Building  
Michigan State University**

Get inspired with new ideas and practical tips for your garden. Garden Day is from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m at the Wharton Center.

At 9:00 am, the first Keynote Speaker, Rita Randolph, speaks about containers.

At 10:15 am you may attend your first choice workshop held at the Plant & Soil Sciences building, followed by Lunch, Market Place (vendors, plant sale, book signing). At 1:15 pm all workshops are again presented.

At 2:30 attendees will return to Wharton Center to hear the final keynote speaker.

There will be vendors selling garden

necessities at the Garden Marketplaces. Items such as roses, herbs, native plants, grasses and birdbaths will be available for purchase.

#### Keynote Speaker:

**Rita Randolph**

#### Containers for the Collector:

Designing containers since the 1970's, Rita combines flowers and foliage in a unique way, with the emphasis on 'Foliage FIRST'.

From table-top pots to large commercial installations, plants flow seamlessly together. New introductions - as well as old favorites perhaps forgotten by the industry- all come together for captivating combinations.

You will be entertained by beautiful photographs of containers from her greenhouses as well as private and botanic gardens she has seen across the country. You are guaranteed to leave this lecture inspired!

#### Keynote Speaker:

**Rick Luke**

#### Creating the water garden of your dreams:

While growing up in East Lansing, from the early age of 19 Rick Luke knew he wanted to create a business for himself.

Rick Luke took classes at Lansing Community College in Business and Pre-law, and later at Michigan State

University in Turf Grass; during that time Rick also was running a small Lawn Care Business on the side. After building up an impressive clientele, Rick had developed a love for Landscaping.

Twenty years later, with much hard work and plenty of hands on experience, Rick's small business has grown into what we know today as Luke Landscape Company. Rick has assembled a one of a kind design team and they now specialize in all types of Hardscapes, Landscapes and water features.

Rick has truly gained his knowledge through unique means, and has established Luke Landscape as one of the top Design and Build Firms in the industry today.

#### Workshops at 10:15- Repeated at 1:15

- Adventures in the Storybrook Garden  
Jessica Albright
- Growing Herbal Gifts  
Colleen French
- 'Behind the Scenes' Garden Tour  
Doug Badgero
- Sensible Landscape Maintenance:  
When to Take Notice, Action, or a  
Nap  
Irene Cahill
- Bring Your Garden to Life at Night  
with Landscape Lighting  
Mike Grizwak
- Edible Landscaping  
Margaret Realy

*Continued on page 5*

## More Workshops and Events.....

### Garden Day continued

- Vegetable Gardening  
Dr. Bob Herner
- Native Plant Rescue  
Jennifer Silveri
- ‘Lost in Paradise’:  
Bringing the Tropics to Michigan  
Dr. Art Cameron
- Grow Organic! Gardening with What  
You’ve Got  
Dr. John Biernbaum
- Conifers for Connoisseurs  
Dr. Bert Cregg
- Computer Gardening: Resources  
Dr. Norm Lownds
- Tackling Tough Lawn Problems  
Kevin Frank

Cost is \$75 before July 25 and \$85 after that date. Registration includes two workshops, keynote speakers, parking and lunch. Advance registration required.

For registration information:  
Sandy Allen at allens@msu.edu or call  
517-335-5191 Ext 1339  
Hrt.msu.edu/gardenday



### The Saturday Morning Gardener

Horticulture Gardens—MSU

#### Rain Gardens:

**July 19 9 am-11am**

Rain Gardens are in the news a lot these days, and for good reason. They offer a unique way to clean water, as well as create beautiful gardens, all at reasonable cost. Come and learn the *real* story about rain gardens and why they make such sense in our concrete urban environments. Taught by Patricia Pennell, director of Rain Gardens of West Michigan ( [raingardens.org](http://raingardens.org) )

#### Poisonous Plants:

**Sept. 27 9 am-11 am**

Dr. Frank Telewski, curator of the Beal Botanical Garden, will discuss common poisonous plants found in Michigan. Our class will meet in Beal garden and take an informal walk around the display beds, with ample time to ask questions and learn about the plants. This is a great chance to learn from one of our area’s foremost authorities on toxic plants.

**Cost: \$25.00 per class**

For online information on enrollment status of a class, registration forms and maps, go to: [www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/SMG120.htm](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/outreach/SMG120.htm)

For further information or accommodations for persons with disabilities, call Ann Hancock at (517) 355-5191, ext. 1348.

### Dow Gardens Offers IPM Walk & Talk Series

Dow Gardens—Midland

Get a firsthand look at different insects and diseases, and how they change through the growing season, all summer long, in this hands-on IPM series.

You’ll spend 30 minutes inside and 1.5 hours walking for each session. Don’t miss this chance to tour the gardens while learning IPM with Chuck Martin, Elly Maxwell and Dan Veresh.

● *Panel Discussion on IPM with experts*

August 14

6—8 pm

**2 Education Credits per class**  
**Cost: \$10 each or \$40 for series**  
To register: Call 989-631-2677 or  
Visit [www.dowgardens.org](http://www.dowgardens.org)

**You must not know too much or be too precise or scientific about birds and trees and flowers and watercraft; a certain free-margin, and even vagueness -ignorance, credulity - helps your enjoyment of these things.**

- Henry David Thoreau

## July Meeting continued

tinued, Sue Stemler and myself. It's fun and I love the plants I've gotten from the exchanges. They are things I might never have bought or tried on my own."

Some may remember her home from the 2005 Saginaw Symphony Christmas House Walk when her brick walkway was lined with large, candle-filled Ball canning jars and wreaths filled every window of the sun porch.

Her husband has contributed the pine trees in front and back. The backyard shed is decorated on the outside much like a dollhouse. They enjoy the patio daily.



Mark Legner

Once her white picket fence went up, it became the backdrop for next door neighbors Mark and Koula Legner, 4415 Dirker, to arrange their garden.

A side gate links the two lots and will be open for Master Gardeners to take a peek during the July meeting.

The Legners took out tall pines that lined the back and replaced them with ribbon grass to hide the stumps. Koula Legner then filled in the space with flowering perennials.

The Legners have added a patio, a new arbor, a shed and many, many plants. A fenced vegetable garden provides fresh vegetables for their meals.

"I want to grow my own grapes on the arbor," says Mark Legner, who has been gardening "ever since my wife asked me to help her."

However, it's obvious, it is something he also enjoys since he retired from Delphi two years ago. His wife is still working in special education at the Saginaw Intermediate School District. When they're not gardening, the pair are active in the annual Greek Festival.

"My wife has all kinds of ideas and I just do what she says, like that window and window box on the fence," Legner says.

Behind the Martins, neighbors Carol and Ken Boertman, 4454 Forsythe, have large pines lining their back see-through wire fence. They also will open their yard for viewing at the July meeting.



Carol Boertman

Members will have permission to cut through Dr. Robert and Julie Plummer's yard, instead of walking around the block to view the Boertman's yard.

Both Joan and Carol have been adding hostas underneath the pines to expand the visual offering for both families. White woodruff also is filling in the empty spaces.

"We put in trillium that we dug up from Ken's sister's place up north," Carol says. "Now we're in the process of dividing it."

Members will see her huge Solomon seal, knee-high astible, coral bells and climbing clematis. What was once a prior owner's Japanese garden is now a collection of Boertman's favorite perennials, complete with statues representing each of her eight grandchildren.

"My husband loves to watch the birds so that's why there's such a large feeder," Boertman explains.

However, she and her daughter are plant fanciers and make at least one buying trip a year to their favorite nursery on the west side of Michigan, WW Greenhouse. (That's where those unusual purple shamrocks come from.)

"Carol also does her son's garden," Martin says. The Boertmans have a plumbing business and she sells garden décor on E Bay.

"My neighbors have beautiful yards and they were nice enough to open them for the meeting," Martin says.

Members will recognize Martin as the member who writes the "Meet the Gardener" feature for the SVMGA newsletter, one her many volunteer activities. She has retired from nursing, after

working in pediatrics at St. Mary's Hospital, post surgical at former St. Luke's Hospital, industrial nursing at the now Delco Moraine, and finally as an employee health nurse for the city of Saginaw.

Retirement has given Martin the chance to travel more and spend time with her four children and nine grandchildren – and of course, garden. But you can see that for yourself at the next meeting.

Story by Darlene B. Damp  
SVMGA Volunteer

**Volunteer Opportunities...**  
**URGENT !!**  
**Rail Trail Help Needed !**

The "eye park" off Benkert Rd is in **desperate need of weeding** now, as well as volunteers to assist for the rest of the season to quickly weed/deadhead at trail head in St Charles and Van Wormer Rd -- 3 new beds added this year.

I have sent prior emails to the "signup list" and in written form in the newsletter, both to no avail. I cannot physically do the maintenance alone.

**It is unfortunate that the new plants via MAKE A DIFFERENCE PROJECT are surrounded by weeds at the eye park. It is even more unfortunate that a large sign with our name as "maintaining the gardens" now appears at the "eye park" and it looks shameful.**

You can choose any day to go there - PLEASE, just let me know.

Call or email me: [sherrlb@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrlb@hotmail.com) or 799-7629

Thanks! Sherry Burkhart

## Yech! What's that? - The Sequel

This very popular workshop filled quickly, and it is being offered a second time this summer:

**TITLE:** Insect Identification Workshop  
Session 2

Sponsored by the MSU Department of Entomology, MSU Diagnostic Services, Michigan State University Extension and, The North Central Plant Diagnostics Network.

**DATE:** Thursday & Friday,  
August 14-15, 2008

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Friday

**PLACE:**  
Michigan State University, Department of Entomology  
Entomology Teaching Lab, 352 Natural Science Building

**INSTRUCTORS:** Howard Russell, MSU Diagnostic Services and Chris DiFonzo, MSU Department of Entomology.

**COST:** \$35. The fee includes materials and breaks. (Overnight lodging and meals are the responsibility of the participant.)

Contact Larry Olsen at 517 355-2308 or [olsenl@msu.edu](mailto:olsenl@msu.edu) for possible assistance with travel and registration costs.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This workshop is designed for all county-based extension educators, office staff and Master Gardener volunteers who want to learn some basic insect (and other creepy crawlies) identification skills. This will be hands-on and in-the-lab learning opportunity. Each student will be provided a good quality dissecting scope and fiber optic light source during the course. Both adults and larvae of the major insect groups will be covered with special consideration given to household, yard, and garden insects. Important and commonly encountered non-insect arthropods (spiders, ticks) will also be covered. Students of this workshop are welcome to bring any bugs that they have on hand to work on during the workshop.

Registration for this workshop is limited to the first 32 participants to enroll.

**TO REGISTER:**

Please complete the registration form provided below and send to:

**Yech! What's that?**

- **The Sequel**

c/o Diagnostic Services  
101 Integrated Plant Systems  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Mi 48824-1311

- **QUESTIONS:**

Contact Howard Russell at 517 353-9386 or [bugman@msu.edu](mailto:bugman@msu.edu)  
or  
Chris DiFonzo at 517 353- 5328 or [difonzo@msu.edu](mailto:difonzo@msu.edu)

----- Detach Here -----

### **Insect Identification Workshop - Session 2 Registration Form August 14-15, 2008**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position/Job Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Type:**  Check – Make payable to Michigan State University

MSU Account – Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card– Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

# Coping With Summer Lawn Stress

Summer weather can be unkind to our lawns. July and August tend to reveal just how healthy your grass plants are. Kentucky blue grass, fescue and perennial rye are the cool season grass varieties in most lawns. While Kentucky blue and perennial rye are heat and drought tolerant, some varieties of fescue are not.



Water, of course, is the primary requirement during rain deficient summer months. One to one and a half inches per week is necessary to sustain healthy turf. One way to check how much you are applying is to put some tuna fish or cat food cans on the lawn and measure how much is collected in thirty minutes. This is a good way to determine how long to leave that sprinkler or irrigation system running.

However, don't water just once a week, especially if your soil is on the sandy side. Cool season grass plant roots shrink during hot weather, so dumping a lot of water on them at one time is not as effective as frequent water applications e.g. every other day. Applying water in late morning or early afternoon has the added benefit of keeping the grass cooler during the hot afternoon. Just make sure to water early enough so grass blades dry off before nightfall.

When mowing, set the mower at three inches, don't collect the clippings and avoid cutting more than one third of the blades at any one time. How simple is that! Longer blades reduce soil evaporation and maximize photosynthesis. Those are good things that will help the lawn look more presentable and get it through these up coming summer dog days.

Len Szymanski  
Midland MG Newsletter, "The Green Scene" July, 2007

## 2008 SVMGA PROGRAMS

7/23	Garden Tour at the home of Joan Martin, Saginaw Township	7:00 pm	10/04	An Autumn Affair—SVMGA Conference (See below) Saginaw Valley State University	
8/27	Garden Tour and Annual SVMGA picnic Japanese Gardens and Saginaw Children's Zoo Saginaw		10/22	Peggy Shaver, Advanced Master Gardener "Dr. Seuss Plants"	
	Guest Welcome	7:00 pm	11/19	To be determined Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm
9/24	"Water Quality in the Shiawassee Basin" Heidi M. Frei-Nature Conservancy Shiawassee Project Andersen Enrichment Center, Saginaw	7:00 pm	12/09	Annual Christmas party First Presbyterian Church, Saginaw	7:00 pm

On October 4, 2008 at Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw Valley Master Gardeners Association will sponsor an education seminar, *An Autumn Affair for Gardeners*. It is open to all gardeners and features experts sharing the latest in gardening information. For info: Judy Henning-799-4136 or judrich@sbcglobal.net or Aileen Cowan-989-865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net